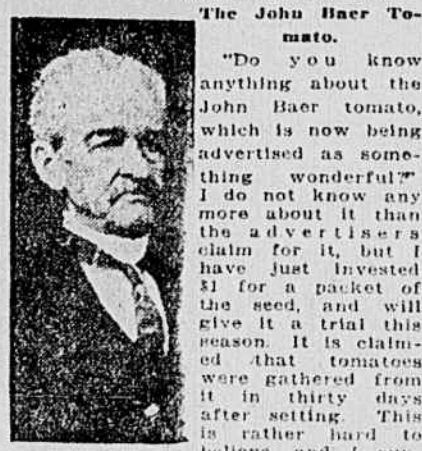


# WITH THE FARMERS

By Prof. W. F. MASSEY

(Letters addressed to Professor Massey must have stamp inclosed for answer.)

Friday, March 6, 1914.



W. F. Massey.

The John Baer Tomato. "Do you know anything about the John Baer tomato, which is now being advertised as something wonderful? I do not know any more about it than the advertiser's claim for it, but I have just invested in a packet of the seed, and will give it a trial this season. It is claimed that tomatoes were gathered from it in thirty days after setting. This is rather hard to believe, and I suppose that the future must have been grown and shifted in pots in the greenhouse, and had green fruit on them when set out. If the claims made for this tomato are correct, it will mark a new era in tomato raising. The earliest tomato I have yet grown is the strain of Earlsburg, produced by the Langdon Brothers at Constantine, N. Y., up near the Canada line, where they must get tomatoes early. If at all. These young men are market gardeners who cater to the summer hotels, and have been breeding the Earlsburg from a rough tomato grown that far North gives early fruit from home-grown seed. I will have something to say the coming summer about the John Baer, I hope.

**Fertilizer for Corn.** A South Carolina correspondent takes up the subject in regard to what I have said about its not paying to depend on commercial fertilizers to make corn. He says that he planted two pieces of land in corn. On one piece he used fertilizer that cost \$13.33 an acre, and made fifty bushels of corn. On another piece of the same quality of land he used no fertilizer, and made twenty bushels of corn. He then he values the crop at a bushel of corn at 15 cents. The fertilizer gave him a profit of \$14.15. Perhaps he could get that price there. But how about the man whose corn is only worth 30 cents a bushel, and there are more of these than those who can get \$17? Then, on the other hand, I know a man whose land formerly in a good season made twenty-five bushels of corn a acre, and always had a rotation of crops and always had a clover sod to turn for corn, and two years ago I saw his cornfield that was planted on a turned-over sod of crimson clover and no fertilizer at all used, and over a thirty-acre field he made thirty-eight and one-half bushels of corn an acre and the cost was a sack of clover seed sown the previous fall.

**Time to Plow for Corn.** "My neighbor and I have had a discussion as to the proper time to plow for corn. I say in fall and winter, and he says in March. Which is right? I would say neither, unless you are plowing in the fall to sow crimson clover or rye or some green crop as a winter cover, to turn under for the corn. If you have the winter cover of rye, then turn it in late March. If you have the still better winter cover of clover, turn it in the fall and leaving it bare all winter will cause some loss of fertility that might be saved by having the winter cover of green stuff on the land. The fall plowing will, of course, tend to mellow a clay soil, and if you do not have a winter cover, clay soil, it would be as well to do the plowing till just before planting time, unless you are willing to take the loss from leaching during the winter. But with fall plowing and the sowing of a cover crop, you, of course, have to plow again in the spring, and that gives you a better chance for a crop.

**Letting Trouble.** "I am sending you some plants of lettuce from my greenhouse which are diseased. What is the trouble? The plants are affected with tip burn. This is not a fungus disease, but is caused by the sun suddenly coming out after a long cloudy spell. In the cloudy weather the cells of the leaf get gorged with moisture, and the sudden rise in the temperature causes the upper cells to burst. The prevention is abundant ventilation in sunny weather and less moisture in the soil.

**Orchard Management.** "I have an orchard of two acres planted in apples, peaches, plums, and cherries. We grow a crop of cowpeas on it last summer, and now would like to know how to fertilize it. Some of the trees are old and large, some just beginning to bear well, while others were planted last year. I will appreciate any advice you may give."

Apple and pear trees and plum trees, after they get into bearing, are better kept in grass and the grass mown several times during the summer, and the cut grass spread as a mulch under the trees, and not used as hay. Then give the grass a topdressing of 300 pounds of raw boned meal and twenty pounds of sulphate of potash every spring, and maintain the fertility of the soil.

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ANCHOR BRAND  
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are specially grown for seed purposes. We offer superior stocks of all the best and most productive varieties:  
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103 East Broad Street,  
Oldest Music House in Virginia and North Carolina.

## PSYCHIC EPILEPSY DEFENSE IGNORED

### Ellis Found Guilty of Murdering Wife and Sentenced to Nine-teen Years in Penitentiary.

Chicago, Ill., March 5.—William Cheney Ellis to-day was found guilty of murdering his wife, Mrs. Eleanor Hosce Ellis, last October, in a Chicago hotel. Punishment was fixed at imprisonment in the State Penitentiary for fifteen years.

The jury reached a decision after deliberating three and one-half hours.

Ellis's defense of psychic epilepsy or transitory insanity, apparently was disregarded by the jurors. Ellis claimed he had been driven to mania by knowledge that his wife had given her love to Fred C. Cauldwell, a young dry goods merchant, of Brantford, Ont.

Ellis killed his wife in their hotel room here on October 16, 1913. He is forty-seven years of age, and has been a dealer in leather goods in Cincinnati, Ohio. He followed his wife here several days after she came to Chicago on a visit to relatives. They celebrated their ninth wedding anniversary with a dinner and theatre party the night of the murder.

When found with the corpse, Ellis appeared dazed. He had slightly slashed his own wrists and throat, and at first declared the tragedy was the result of a suicide agreement, because of his business troubles. Before the coroner's jury he changed his explanation, and testified that he alone was responsible for the killing, but that he had meant that both should die. Later the defense of temporary mania was proposed, and the burden of its cause laid on an alleged infatuation of Mrs. Ellis for Cauldwell.

Cauldwell declined to come to Chicago to testify, but from his home in Canada sent dispatches denying the accusations of Ellis.

At the time of the murder, it was testified Ellis was broken in health, his business had dwindled, and he had been the victim for a long period, of spells of brooding, depression and nervousness.

**Will Be Presented at Court to-day**

Miss Belle Willard and Mrs. Clarence Moore and Daughter to Meet King and Queen.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] London, March 5.—Among the Americans who will be presented to the King and Queen to-morrow night at the second court of the season by Mrs. Walter Hughes Page, wife of the American ambassador, are Mrs. Clarence Moore, of Washington, and her daughter, Miss Frances Moore. Mr. Moore lost his life on the Titanic. Miss Belle Willard, daughter of Joseph E. Willard, United States ambassador at Madrid, will also be presented.

Miss Willard's gown will be unusual in that it will depart from the white and silver, which is considered de rigueur for debutantes at court, in favor of a more elaborate display of color. Her gown will be of mauve silver tissue, embroidered with pearls and diamonds. The skirt will be draped in front and high at the back, the underskirt, which will be embroidered with lace. Mauve tulle drapery will add chic to the back of the skirt, as it will be arranged in such a way as to show a diamond and emerald bodice of draped mauve tulle will be cut rather low in the front and back, with short sleeves edged with pearls.

Mrs. Moore will wear a princess gown of gleaming black tulle, closely draped, with an oversleeve of tulle embroidered heavily with diamond paillettes.

The court train will be of rich black velvet, through which will be woven an elusive silver pattern. Mrs. Moore will wear some of her magnificent jewelry, consisting of a diamond dog collar and a rope of exquisitely matched pearls.

Miss Moore's dress will be of silver tissue, with loosely draped bodice and short sleeves. Simplicity will be the keynote. The train will be of heavy white satin, trimmed with tulle and embroidered with pearl paillettes. A simple bunch of white roses will be fastened to her left shoulder, and she will carry a bunch of lilies of the valley. She will not wear any jewelry.

Mrs. Page will wear a very handsome court gown of biscuit-colored shadow lace over satin tulle. A band of moiré satin will be caught in front, with a beautiful diamond ornament. Straps of diamond and pearl trimmings come over the shoulders. The train will be of moiré satin, fringed with chiffon to match the satin; the chiffon will be handsomely embroidered with different shades of brown silk, to form flower designs, the centre of the flowers being finished with dewdrops of very fine diamonds. From the left shoulder an elaborate tassel will hang gracefully over the train.

**Primary to Name City Officials.** Alexandria, Va., March 5.—The City Democratic Committee has fixed upon May 14 next as the time for holding a primary for the purpose of nominating four members of the Board of Aldermen and eight members of the Common Council, which is one-half of the representation of the two respective branches of the City Council.

## EXPLAINS POSITION OF WEST VIRGINIA

Offer in Debt Case Does Not Deviate From Opinion of Supreme Court.

### STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN

Records Showing Many Millions of Assets Not Taken Into Consideration.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Washington, March 5.—Apparently nonplussed by the lack of serious consideration with which the Virginia debt commissioners yesterday treated the offer made by the West Virginia debt commission, to-day issued a statement regarding the negotiations, explaining the proposition, and stating that the refusal of the Virginia debt commission to accept the offer necessarily terminated further negotiations.

Chairman Moon, of the Virginia Commission, made no comment on the statement, ignoring it entirely. The Virginia Commission takes the position that the Supreme Court has ordered the payment by West Virginia of the original debt, and left open for negotiation only the matter of interest. On the other hand, the West Virginia Commission contends that the court's decision was rendered upon the supposition that Virginia had no assets on hand to offset the debt, whereas they have discovered records showing there were many millions of assets.

It was made plain to-day that the West Virginians have been at work several months collecting data regarding these assets, to be presented to the Supreme Court on April 13, with a view to obtaining a reopening of the entire case.

### Mason's Statement.

Chairman Mason's statement was as follows: "The West Virginia Commission has not deviated from the opinion of the Supreme Court in arriving at the conclusion upon which its proposition to Virginia, looking to a settlement of the Virginia debt controversy, is based. There seems to be some misunderstanding as to the position taken by West Virginia in relation to the opinion of the court. The statement has been made that West Virginia ignored such opinion.

"On the contrary, it has accepted the opinion of the court as the basis of settlement, and it proposed to the Virginia Commission certain equitable which West Virginia believes it is entitled to offset against the amount fixed by the court as its proportion of the principal debt, and filed with the Virginia Commission a full and complete list of the items so far discovered aggregating many millions of dollars, 23 1-2 per cent of which, in keeping with the Supreme Court opinion, belongs to the State of West Virginia. The Virginia Commission refused to discuss any of these matters, and thereby necessarily terminated negotiations.

"It seems that Virginia has no financial interest in the question, since by her refusal to accept the offer assigned to her creditors whatever claim she might be able to sustain against West Virginia.

"The court, in its decision of March 6, 1911, in fixing the basis of West Virginia's liability, said: 'It does not appear that there are any stocks of value on hand,' but the commission created by the Legislature of West Virginia in 1912 has discovered stocks aggregating many millions of dollars in value, purchased with the proceeds of the very bonds constituting the debt in question, and if charged with 23 1-2 per cent of this debt, she ought to receive 23 1-2 per cent of the securities purchased therewith.' G. H. M.

### Celebrates Ninetieth Birthday.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Lynchburg, Va., March 5.—William A. Miller, president of the board of trustees of the Miller Female Orphan-Asylum, celebrated to-day his ninetyeth birthday. He was born in the seed business, to-day celebrated the ninetieth anniversary of his birth. Despite his age he retains all of his faculties. To-night Mr. Miller entertained at his home on Harrison street, three generations of his descendants.

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## HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFIT TO WOMEN

Prediction of Thirty Years Ago Proved Wrong, Declares Miss Giff.

New Haven, Conn., March 5.—"Thirty years ago the prediction was made that the higher education was fostering a blow to the health of woman," said Miss Laura Francis Giff, president of the College for Women, Sewanee, Tenn., in addressing the eleventh annual Religious Education Association convention here to-day, but figures show that only a small percentage have impaired health.

"Later the cry was that college women were not marrying early enough, or, if they married, they did not have children enough. Again, figures show that, while college women marry a little later in life, they finally marry in the same proportion, as their nearest female blood relatives, who were not college graduates, and that they have relatively larger families, a larger percentage are boys, and their children have better health."

D. J. Fleming, of Lahore, India, told of social service among Oriental students, saying that the Western idea of service had penetrated the Far East, and is influencing the breaking down of caste.

Edwin A. Kilpatrick, Fitchburg, Mass., said there were no standards by which society could select young people for higher education.

The first public session was held in Wesley Hall at Yale to-night, and was largely attended. Speakers were President Arthur T. Hadley, of Yale, President C. F. Fleming, of Western Reserve University, Professor T. G. Soares, of Chicago University, and Dean Brown, of Yale divinity school.

Mr. Soares said there is a widespread feeling that we need a genuine revival of religion.

Professor W. B. Bailey, of Yale, discussing the higher cost of a college education to-day, said:

"The cost of a college education has increased somewhat, but not in the same proportion as the cost of living."

The present standard of honor among participants in college sports was sharply criticized by Dean James Angell of the University of Chicago be-

fore the Religious Education Association here to-day.

"A curious double standard obtains in college athletics," said Dr. Angell. "A boy who would scorn to cheat at his lessons will cut bases in a ball game if he thinks the umpire is not looking. His own conscience will applaud him, and the audience will show its approbation of his trick."

This double standard is a blot on the human side of college life."

Albion W. Small, dean of the graduate school of the University of Chicago, said: "No one factor does so much to make or mar the ethics of students as the coach. A coach with low standards lowers the standards of the men with whom he is brought in contact. The result is that the bad sportsmanship drives out the good."

Depressing fact is that students are apt to make a hero of a coach. The coach may be profane, or low in morals, yet he will stand on a pinnacle in the eyes of the men he trains."

**DEMOCRATS WILL HOLD PRIMARY IN LYNCHBURG**

Lynchburg, Va., March 5.—The City Democratic Committee this forenoon, in a meeting at the office of Chairman P. W. Whitaker, decided to hold a primary for the nomination of candidates for the City Council for the June election, and Friday, May 15, was fixed

as the time for the election.

The matter of naming the candidates in ward mass-meetings was suggested, but was found to be little favor with the committee, although there is so short a period in which the candidates can notify the committee of their intention to be candidates. This must be done on or before March 15, or the name cannot appear on the official ballot.

This will be the first time Lynchburg has taken advantage of the State law providing for primaries, and as this election will be conducted entirely under the provisions of the State statute, the expense of the election will be borne by the city government. The cost is estimated at about \$175.

**New Cases of Smallpox.** Lynchburg, Va., March 5.—Smallpox has appeared in a new place in Campbell County, a case having been located at Tyreanna, three miles east of the city. Another case has been found at Lynchburg, in Bedford County. Still another is reported at Big Island, Bedford County.

**A. P. Montague Resigns.** Lynchburg, Va., March 5.—A. P. Montague, for four years a member of the Common Council and chairman of the Committee on Lights, Fire and Electricity, tendered his resignation to-night. He leaves here April 1 to become general manager of a machine works at Covington, Va.

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